MacDougall, John

June-Sept. 1914

of the National Committee of the Y. M. C. A. about the Boy's Vacational Campmeet to be held at Ennva Park. I wrote the Secretaries calling attention to the fact that merchants, lawyers &c &c. were to address the boys upon the life-work offered by their various occupations, and asking whether a farmer was to be present and present the case for his calling. The reply was that the Committee was so preoccupied with city-work that they had never thought of the needs of the country. Yet boys from all our country villages were invited to attend. The Committee at once took steps to follow my suggestion, inviting Mr. Good, President of the Canadian Grange to attend. I mention this only to show how easily we overlook the rural community.

Sincerely yours

John MacDougall.

Spencerville, Ontario, 23 June 1914

R. Falconer, Ll. D.
President, Toronto University,

My Dear Dr. Falconer,

In the Report of the Board of Social Service of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, just to hand, I am greatly pleased to find an outline of a course of training for Social Workers to be provided in Toronto University.

It seems to me well-arranged and up-to-date, except in one detail. You will pardon I know my mentioning this, for I write in no spirit of criticism but of thorough appreciation of what is being done.

Would it not be well to add a third sub-head under No. II. Discussion Courses, to deal with the Rural Community? The question is certainly important in itself; is not the time ripe for the University to show itself the leader in the scientific discussion of the needs of the rural community?

A few weeks ago I received a circular

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June 25th, 1914

John MacDougall, Esq.,

Spencerville, Ont.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of President Falconer in Europe I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst. regarding the new course for the training of Social workers. Your letter will be submitted to the Committee dealing with this matter at its next meeting.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

September 14th, 1914

Rev. John Macdougall, D.D.

Spencerville, Ont.

Dear Dr. Macdougall:

On my return home I find your letter of the 23rd June awaiting me. I thoroughly agree with you that the question of the rural community is immensely important and I have read with interest your own communications from time to time.. It has been necessary for us, however, at the beginning to confine our attention to the training of workers for the cities. We have only a small equipment. We are only making a beginning, but we must train first those who come to us asking for training and these are all workers in cities and towns. That our plan will develop I hope may be the case. We have just appointed a Director and we are expecting that he will be able to give us much help.

I shall be glad to hear from you at any time with regard to what in your opinion it might be possible for us to do in dealing with the rural problems. At present, however, we are hampered very much by want of funds. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.